

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me. It will give rural areas the same access to local programming that urban areas receive. I feel the cable industry has held us hostage for too long.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive. Wilmington, NC is approximately 100 miles away and Raleigh, NC is around 160 mi. from my home, but I am denied local channels because I 'should' be able to pick up a 'clear enough' reception with an outdoor antenna. Many subdivisions do not allow this type of antenna, including the one I reside in. I have been without local access for 7 years now.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Tim Britt
101 Raven Rd
Lumberton, NC 28358